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Media Release

“OUTBACK WAY” FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT IMPORTANT FOR AUSTRALIA’S PACIFIC NORTH EAST REGIONS

The commitment by Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, of funding for the completion of sealing of the Outback Way, is a nation building initiative that will be of great benefit for Australia’s Pacific North East Regions.

The Outback Way provides a third transcontinental route across the heart of Australia that will directly link Perth and Western Australia with Australia’s Pacific North East Regions based on the major regional cities of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Mt Isa. The route will generate great economic efficiency gains through more directly linking the nation’s largest minerals producing regions in Western Australia and the nation’s second largest mineral producing regions around Mt Isa and in the Rockhampton and Mackay regions.

The development will mean that two of Australia’s top iconic international tourist attractions will be more directly linked by sealed roads – Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef and the Red Centre via Australia’s Waltzing Matilda country around Winton with the route extending on through to the important tourism regions around Perth.

The road will also provide a more efficient route for transport of a wide range of primary products and manufactured goods including fruit and vegetables from Australia’s third largest fruit growing region around Cairns.

The Outback Way route when sealed will have significant defence implications linking more directly two of Australia’s operational and major shipyard centres around Fremantle and at Cairns as well as important army and airforce based in Western Australia with Townsville.

Apart from those major nation building efficiency implications, the sealing of the road will help reduce developmental costs of mineral deposits along the way in the Northern Territory and around Warburton in Western Australia and increase employment opportunities for Aboriginal communities along the route. The sealing of the route will consolidate Alice Springs as a major transport cross roads and hub in the centre of Australia.

Cummings Economics has been pleased, in association with others through the Northern Australia Research Group, to have provided foundation economic, social and cultural analysis of the benefits and costs of upgrading this nation building route.

Copies of the foundation studies carried out between 2006 and 2012 can be found on <https://www.cummings.net.au/>

UPGRADING THE OUTBACK WAY

***A CENTRAL TRANSCONTINENTAL
ROUTE ACROSS AUSTRALIA***

**SUBMISSION TO
INFRASTRUCTURE
AUSTRALIA**



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Prepared for
**THE OUTBACK WAY
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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